

Finding of No Significant Impact
Eradication of Isolated Populations of Light Brown Apple Moth in California
Revised Environmental Assessment
January, 2008

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), has prepared a revised environmental assessment (EA) that analyzes potential environmental consequences of eradicating isolated populations of light brown apple moth (*Epiphyas postvittana*) (LBAM) in California. The EA, incorporated by reference in this document, is available from:

U.S. Department of Agriculture
Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service
Plant Protection and Quarantine
Emergency and Domestic Programs
Emergency Management
4700 River Road, Unit 134
Riverdale, MD 20737-1236

The revised EA analyzed alternatives consisting of (1) maintaining the Federal quarantine order without further action by APHIS (no action alternative), and (2) continuation of the Federal quarantine order along with eradication of isolated populations of LBAM in California with the use of *Bacillus thuringiensis kurstaki* (Btk) and/or LBAM-specific pheromone (treatment alternative). The revised EA evaluated the potential impacts from eradication treatments of small, isolated populations and determined that any potential impacts would be limited. Since the circumstances surrounding each isolated population are unique, each site will be considered in a finding of no significant impact (FONSI) prior to treatment. This FONSI addresses the treatment for LBAM in three separate sites within Pescadero, San Mateo County, California (see attachment 1).

Treatment in the Pescadero Eradication Area

Pescadero is a farming and ranching community in San Mateo County two miles east of California Highway 1 and Pescadero State Beach. It is located approximately 17 miles south of Half Moon Bay and 34 miles north of Santa Cruz. It is a weekend tourist location during the summer months because of beaches, parks including Memorial Park and Butano State Park, as well as extensive rural roads for biking and trails for hiking in the Santa Cruz Mountains.

Six male LBAMs were found in areas within Pescadero, California between August 2007 and November 2007. When an LBAM is found, a treatment area of 200-meter radius around each find is defined. The six LBAMs were found within three treatment areas (see Attachment 1). One treatment site is to the west and occurs near North Street and Goulson Street. This area has a residential area as well as agricultural fields. There are no schools or parks within the treatment block, however Pescadero Elementary school is located within a half mile from this treatment area. The remaining two sites are close to each other and are a couple of miles away

from the first site mentioned above. These two areas have very few residences and contain agricultural and forested areas. There are no schools or parks within these two treatment blocks.

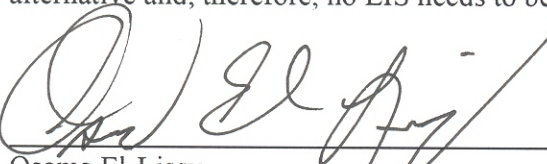
The treatment areas will be treated with pheromone-impregnated twist ties which will be attached to trees, shrubs, and other fixtures within the area at a rate of 250 dispensers per acre. The dispensers will be removed at the end of their useful lives. In some cases they may be replaced for a second treatment. When treatments are completed, all dispensers will be removed.

The revised EA evaluated the potential impacts of eradication treatments of small, isolated populations like the ones in Pescadero. Due to the nature of the dispenser and the pheromone itself, there will be no impacts to the human environment including nontarget species because the product is contained in dispensers that are tied to fixtures and will be removed after treatment. In addition, there will be no negative cumulative effects from this action in combination with any other actions because there are no impacts to the human environment including nontarget species. The most likely impact will be the reduction of the LBAM population due to disruption of mating; eventually leading to the eradication of LBAM within the eradication area, and ultimately, within the State of California.

APHIS and the California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) previously discussed with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) and the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) treatments with LBAM-specific pheromone at various locations. A no effect determination for listed species and critical habitat has been determined because the pheromones will not affect species other than the LBAM, and the dispensers will be tied to trees and other fixtures that will remain in the treatment areas until removal after 3 months.

There are no disproportionate adverse effects to minorities, low-income populations, or children in accordance with Executive Order 12898, "Federal Actions to Address Environmental Justice in Minority Populations and Low-income Populations," and Executive Order 13045, "Protection of Children from Environmental Health Risks and Safety Risks."

APHIS' finding of no significant impact for these three treatment areas is based upon the expected limited environmental consequences, as analyzed in the EA. An environmental impact statement (EIS) must be prepared if implementation of the proposed action may significantly affect the quality of the human environment. I have determined that there would be no significant impact to the human environment from the implementation of the treatment alternative and, therefore, no EIS needs to be prepared.


Osama El-Lissy
Emergency and Domestic Programs
Plant Protection and Quarantine
Animal and Plant Health Inspection Agency

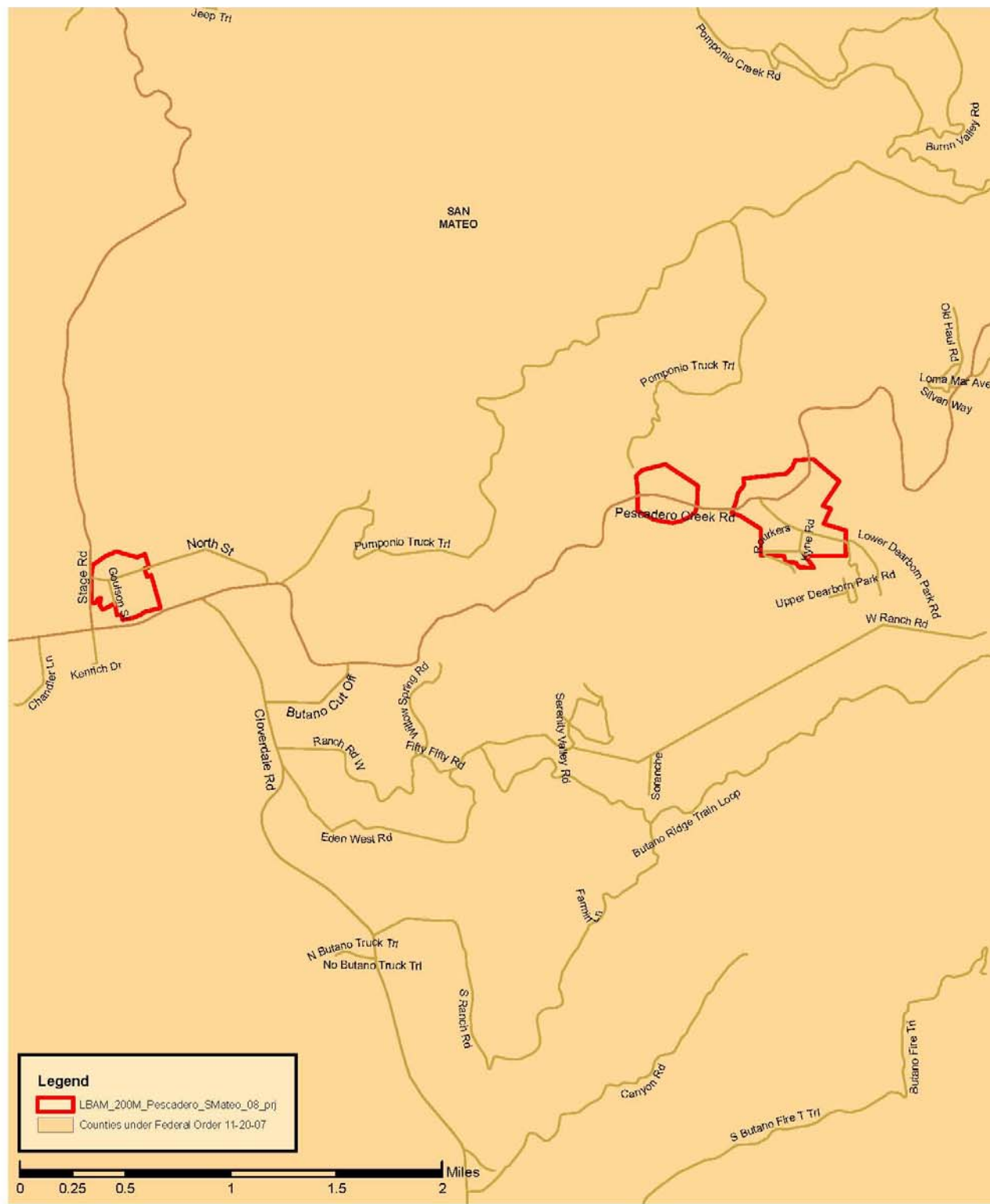
2/21/08
Date

Attachment 1

Map of Eradication Area



Eradication Areas for Light Brown Apple Moth in Pescadero, San Mateo County, California - 2008



USDA, APHIS, PPQ
State Plant Health Director's Office
650 Capitol Mall, Suite 6-400
Sacramento, CA 95814

Coordinate System:
Teale Albers, NAD 83
Date Printed: January 30, 2008

Data Source:
CDFA - Treatment regions
TeleAtlas - roads



The U.S. Department of Agriculture's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service collected the data displayed for internal agency purposes only. These data may be used by others, however, they must be used for their original intended purpose.

Eradication Areas for Light Brown Apple Moth Pescadero, San Mateo Co, CA - 2008

